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Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /078 W
---------- 012293
R 201014Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9450
INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 04297

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, UK, RH
SUBJECT: BRITISH ROLE IN RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT

1. AS OF MARCH 19, BRITISH GOVERNMENT AWAITING REPORTS OF LATEST SMITH-VORSTER MEETING AND BISHOP MUZOREWA'S VISIT TO LUSAKA BEFORE DECIDING WHAT TO DO NEXT TO ENCOURAGE SETTLEMENT OF RHODESIAN PROBLEM. FONSEC CALLAGHAN'S SPECIAL ENVOY IN EASTERN AFRICA, DENIS GRENNAN, WAS TO HAVE RETURNED TO LONDON EARLIER THIS WEEK, BUT STAYED ON IN LUSAKA TO MEET
WITH MUZOREWA. ACCORDING TO WELL-PLACED SOURCE AT FCO, GRENNAN DID SUCCEED IN MEETING ZAMBIAN FONMIN MWAANGA, BUT NO NEW IDEAS CAME OUT OF MEETING. SOURCE COMMENTED THAT MWAANGA SUGGESTED TO GRENNAN THAT FONSEC CALLAGHAN SHOULD FLY TO BLANTYRE TO MEET WITH SMITH. BRITISH POLITELY DECLINED ON GROUNDS SUCH MEETING WOULD ONLY IN-
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FURIATE SOUTH AFRICANS AND NEGATE VORSTER'S EFFORTS

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BRING PRESSURE ON SMITH.

2. BRITISH HAVE IMPRESSION TANZANIANS MAY BE GROWING LESS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR ENCOURAGING PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. BRITISH APPREHENSIONS BASED ON TANZANIAN FAILURE TO PARTICIPATE IN MEETING AT GABORONE ON MARCH 6-7 BETWEEN ZAMBIANS, BOTSWANANS AND SOUTH AFRICANS AND ON COMMENTS MADE TO FCO OFFICIALS BY TANZANIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER IN LONDON FOR WHOM BRITISH HAVE GREAT RESPECT.

3. IN VIEW OF CURRENT IMPASSE AND CONFUSED SITUATION, FCO CONCERNED LEST BRITISH BE MADE SCAPEGOATS FOR FAILURE OTHER PARTIES INVOLVED TO MAKE PROGRESS. BRITISH VIEW OF THEIR ROLE IS TO BE HELPFUL WHEN CALLED ON,PARTICULARLY IN CALLING OF CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE, BUT ALSO IN PROVIDING ADVICE AND PASSING INFORMATION. THEY STILL BELIEVE AFRICAN PARTIES CONCERNED ARE MAIN INTERLOCUTORS AND DO NOT WANT TO BE MADE SCAPEGOATS FOR PRINCIPALS' FAILURE.

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